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The European Journal of Pain

Report 2014/2015

submitted to the Council of EFIC

by

Hermann O. Handwerker, E-i-C

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1. Publisher

2011/2012 we changed from the publishing company Elsevier to Wiley-Blackwell. The complete journal, including its backfiles and its homepage can be found in the internet as part of the Wiley Online Library at: www.europeanjournalpain.com and through the EFIC Website. The online submission system is the Editorial Manager (EM), run and supported by the company ARIES.

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2. Editorial Board

Section Editors:

- Frank Birklein, Mainz, Germany
- Didier Bouhassira, Paris, France
- Maria-Adele Giamberardino, Chieti Scalo, Italy
- Per Hansson, Stockholm, Sweden
- Christiane Hermann, Giessen, Germany
- Jörn Lötsch, Frankfurt, Germany
- Stephen Morley, Leeds, UK
- Bart Morlion, Leuven, Belgium
- Theodore Price, Phoenix; Arizona, USA
- Danielle van der Windt, Staffordshire, UK
- Bettina Haake-Weber, Bamberg, Germany, Managing Editor
- Hans-Georg Kress, Vienna, Deputy Editor

The board is completed by the 71 members of the Editorial Advisory board. The list is added as an appendix to this report.

The Editorial Office is run by the Managing Editor, Dr. Bettina Haake-Weber, and the Editorial Assistant, Dr. Tatjana Fuchs.

Our cooperation partners from Wiley are:

- Publishing Editor: *Griselda Campbell*
- Marketing: *Ben Honour*
- Production: *Michelle (Mitch) Liao*

The Editor-in-Chief is greatly indebted to the Section Editors, the Members of the Editorial Advisory Board, Referees of submitted papers, and the Wiley Staff, for their continuing enthusiasm and excellent work.

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3. Content and Distribution

3.1. Recent history

(In part adopted from the report 2014)

2005 - Change from 6 issues per year to 8 issues in 2006 and 2007. Since the number of papers to be published steadily increased (see below), it was decided to increase also the number of pages per issue.

2008 - Change from 8 to 10 issues per year in 2009 (volume 13)

2009 - additional material can be published now "*online only*", e.g. long tables and large figures.

2010 – Distinction between "Editorial" and "Commentary" (to a paper). The section "bookshelf" was added

2011/12 - Transfer from Elsevier to Wiley-Blackwell. The layout was successfully re-launched

2013 - "*Position Paper*" was introduced as a new article category. Under this category papers can be published which provide an overview of particular therapeutic or research problems which are not so much comprehensive reviews, but express the opinion of authors.

Reviews are now distinguished in "Topical or Narrative Reviews" and "Systematic Reviews". The latter must be accompanied by a completed PRISMA checklist¹.

Similarly, experimental animal studies have to be distinguished in "Exploratory" and "Confirmatory". The latter have to fulfil the ARRIVE criteria of "Good Laboratory Praxis"². For RCTs a completed CONSORT checklist needs to be submitted³.

2014 - "*special issues*" are launched which consist of a series of articles accompanied by an Editorial which are included in a regular issue of the journal. The topic of the first special issue was "fibromyalgia", Guest Editor Serge Perrot, Paris.

2015 - a second "special issue" will appear on "pruritus". Guest Editor Earl Carstens, Davis, California.

¹ From: Moher D, Liberati A, Tetzlaff J, Altman DG, The PRISMA Group (2009). Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses: The PRISMA Statement. PLoS Med 6(6): e1000097. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed1000097

² From: Carol Kilkenny et al. PLoSBiol. June 2010, 8:e1000412

³ From: www.consort-statement.org

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In addition we launched on our homepage „*virtual issues*“ comprising a collection of articles on particular topics published recently in the European Journal of Pain. These issues are freely accessible via the journal's homepage. Until today the following virtual issues have been issued:

- ✓ Complex Regional Pain Syndrome
- ✓ Cancer Pain
- ✓ Pediatric Pain

2015 - Transition to publication in the internet only, abandoning of the printed version of the journal. This transition was enforced by the fact that our printed edition had dramatically lost acceptance. From year to year fewer copies have been sold. While changing to internet-only we kept the structure of volumes and issues. The 2015 volume has the number 19, consisting of 10 issues. Each article appears almost immediately after acceptance as “early view” in the internet version of our journal under a DOI address. Under this address it can be cited. After implementation in an issue this address is supplemented and partly replaced by a final address in the traditional form (see below).

3.2 Number of manuscripts received and rejection rate

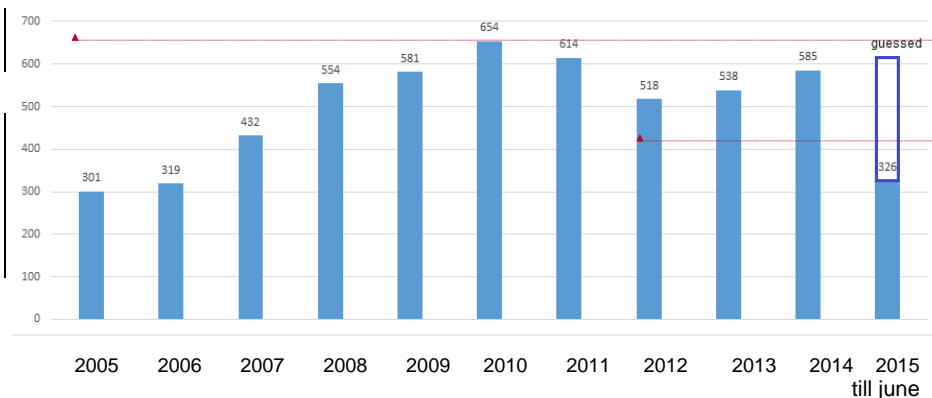


Fig. 1

The figure shows the number of submissions and the temporary influence of the change of publisher and internet database

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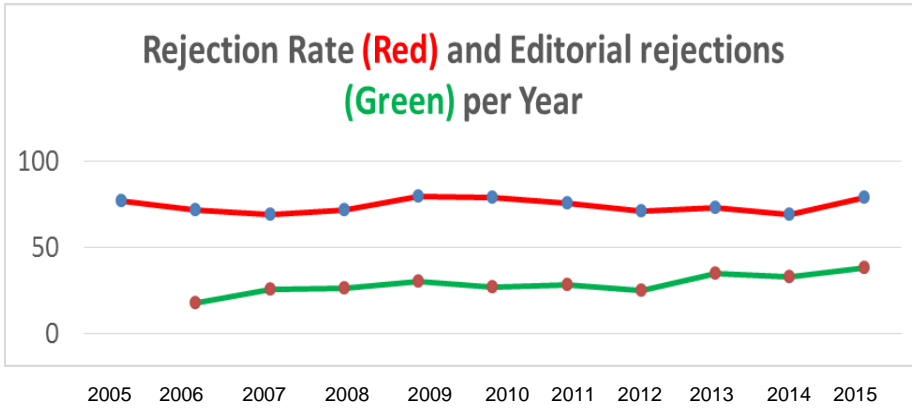


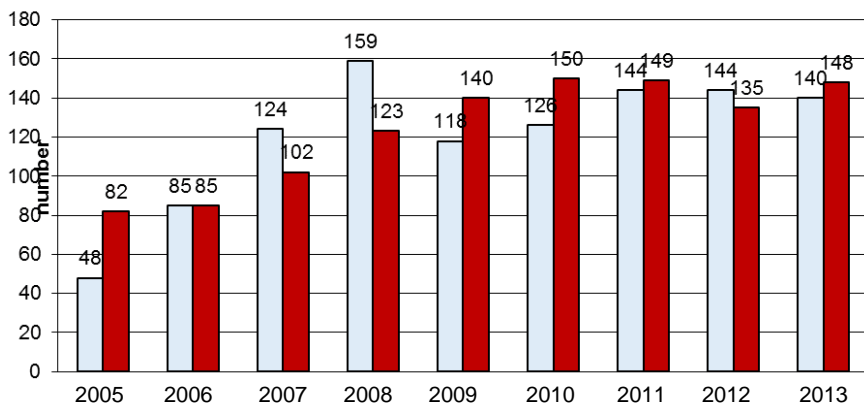
Fig. 2

The figure 2 shows the stable rejection rate over the years and the increase of editorial rejections with the “maturation” of the editorial board.

Accepted and Published Papers

(This paragraph is partly adopted from the previous report)

accepted papers published papers



In 2014 we published 146-150 papers

Fig. 3

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On the long run the number of accepted and of published papers should be equal. If more papers are accepted than published, a greater backlog will be the consequence, i.e. a longer time period between the appearance of a paper in the internet platform with a DOI number and the attribution to an issue in the present volume. Our backlog is stable at about 7-8 months.

Since the journal appears no longer in print, compilation of issues requires no longer printing time, but the issues have still to be compiled, the papers get their final pagination and their traditional form of address. Only papers attributed to issues and volumes count for the denominator of the Impact Factor (see below).

3.3 Countries of origin

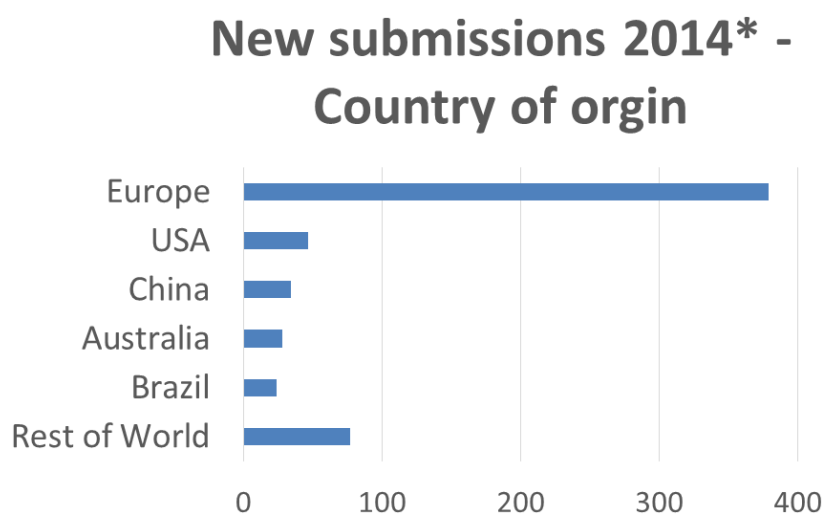


Fig. 4

Fig. 4 shows the distribution of the submissions to this journal. Obviously, we are an Eurocentric journal, though the number of submissions from North America and China recently increased. It is our aim to further increase the number of submissions from the Americas and from Far East.

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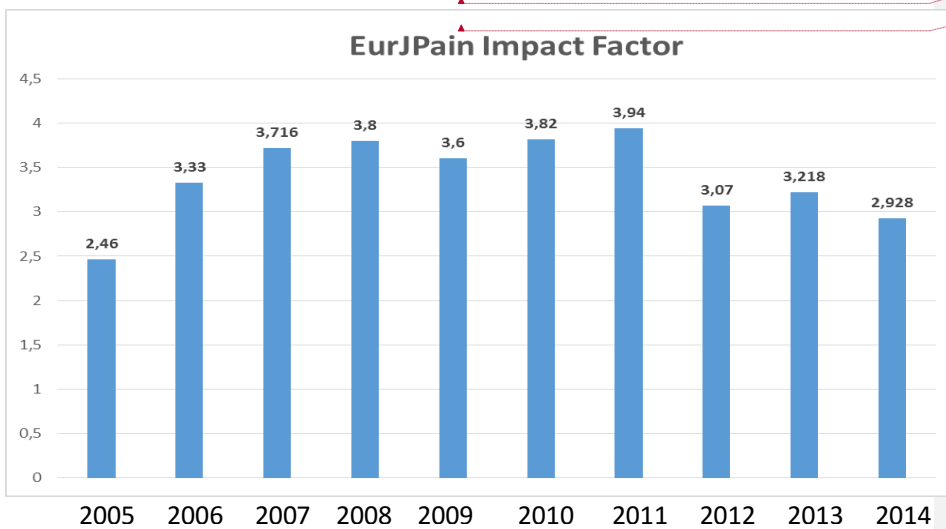
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3.4 Journal turn-around times

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On average 1.1 days elapse from the appearance of a paper in the Editorial Manager to the attribution to a handling editor. About 11 days elapse, on average, till reviewers are invited. The short delay from submission to editor assignment is again not at least an achievement of our Editorial Assistant, Tatjana Fuchs. The average delay from submission to first decision (acceptance, rejection, revisions) is 43 days. In particular rejections should be pronounced quickly. This is supported by the many editorial rejections. Though the handling time is acceptable, it should be improved and a short handling time should become a trade mark of this journal.

4. Recognition of the Journal – Impact Factor



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Fig.5

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Whereas our Impact Factor was steadily increasing from 2005 to 2011 and approached “4” in 2011, it dropped considerably since 2012. Last year it was below “3” for the first time since 9 years.

This decline is alarming, since a high impact factor makes a journal attractive in particular for young and ambitious authors. We are discussing the reasons based on analyses provided by our publisher and are looking for means of improvement. One of the reasons is the relatively large quote of papers which are never cited in the small window of 2 years for the Impact Factor numerator. Consequently, our 5yrs Impact Factor is higher, at present 3.5. Also the half life of the papers published in our journal is relatively high (5.7 years).

5. Online-only and Subscriptions *Impact of the move to Internet-only publication on number of subscriptions and on royalties.*

~~Since the E i C has no actual information on these issues, I refer to the report of our Publishing Editor Griselda Campbell.~~

~~The move to online only in 2015 has been well received, with no reduction in institutional revenue from 2014 to 2015. Renewals for 2015 are going strong, and it is predicted that 2015 will end on par if not slightly ahead of 2014.~~

a. Institutional Sales by Type

Sales Model	Total
Institutions buying the Wiley License	2,667
Institutions buying Traditional Subscriptions	38
Online	15
Print & Online	8
Print	15
Grand Total	2,705

In 2014, 2,667 institutions bought access to the *European Journal of Pain* via a Wiley License, often through a consortium. In addition, 38 individual institutions bought traditional (Online, Print and Online or Print only) subscriptions.

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b. Institutional Subscription Trends by Type

Subscription Type	2013	%	2014	%	2015 (July ytd)	%
Online Licensed	110	70%	125	76%	127	85%
Online	18	11%	17	10%	23	13%
Print & Online	9	6%	8	5%	-	-
Print	20	13%	15	9%	-	-
Grand Total	157		165		150	

In 2014, there were 165 institutional subscriptions to the *European Journal of Pain* (as opposed to Figure a, which shows the number of Institutions buying access to the *European Journal of Pain*. A small number of institutions may still

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[buy more than one subscription](#)).

- **Subscription by individuals**

EFIC intends to support the free access of members of national European Pain Societies (IASP chapters). To this purpose, we decided one year ago to re-organize the subscription mode for individuals. The following rules have been published in my report of the E-i-C to the Council 2014.

- Application to a free-of-charges subscription of the internet version of the journal can be filed through the EFIC website (www.efic.org, go to “publications”). This site and registration form can also be reached via the journal’s homepage. This application contains a drop-box of all national pain societies constituting EFIC. The applicant has to choose his society and provide his National IASP Chapter member number.
- The application will be passed to the respective pain society for control
- The national pain society will confirm the membership and pass the application to the EFIC office in Brussels
- The applicant will receive a password from the EFIC office and gets free access to our journal.

- **Improvements of the Internet Publication**

- The “Anywhere Article”**

In April 2014 Wiley-Blackwell launched its so called “Anywhere Article”, an enhanced HTML version of each article available online.

What is the „Anywhere Article“?

- *Mobility* - the responsive HTML article will adapt to any device - desktop, tablet, or mobile - to give the optimal reading experience
- *Readability* - superfluous information and clutter has been removed so that readers can focus on the article.
- *Functionality* - the new layout and sidebar trays allows readers easy access to important information, such as references, at any point in the reading experience, without losing their place on the page.
- *Figure browser* - as well as viewing a figure in context, readers can browse through all other figures in the article at the same time, and quickly navigate to each figure’s context in the article

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2015 Wiley Blackwell ~~will intends to~~ launch an APP [for ipod, iphone, and ipad](#) for the European Journal of Pain [Autumn 2015](#) which will allow to transport the full content of an issue to computers and tablets.

❖ ~~For details I refer to the report of our Publication Editor Griselda Campbell~~

6. Open Access

(adopted from the report 2014)

There has been an increasing pressure towards “open access” publishing, since major Science funding organizations now demand “open access” publishing of results obtained with their grants. There are different forms of “open access”: So called “green open access” (originally pushed forward by the NIH) demanding self -archiving of publications and free access after an embargo period. “Golden open access” has been pushed forward in particular by UK institutions RCUK (Research Councils UK) and Wellcome Trust, according to which a publication has to be paid by the author, or in the name of the author, and must be freely available in the internet from the time of appearance. Also other European funding organizations demand, or at least sponsor, open access publication.

In this situation the European Journal of Pain was threatened by losing an important segment of its submissions. Therefore, EFIC and the publisher agreed to open our journal optionally for authors who wish to publish their articles by either “green” or “golden” open access. Wiley, our publisher, takes care of the changed copy right conditions by changing the respective forms to be completed after acceptance of a paper. The open access publication fee has to be re-negotiated this year.

In future we have to make better known this change in our publishing policy to attract more papers from the open access community.

7. Outlook

By the end of 2015 I will step down from the position of the E-i-C after serving the journal for 10 years. Prof. Luis Garcia-Larrea from Lyon has been chosen as my successor. He will edit the journal starting with the jubilee volume 20.

In a transition period both of us will work together.

I wish Luis good luck, enthusiastic coworkers, and exciting submissions which he can happily accept for publication!

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A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray grid background. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'H. O. Handwerker'.

Respectfully submitted,
H. O. Handwerker, Editor-in-Chief

Acknowledgements: I wish to thank Dr. Bettina Haake-Weber for her help in compiling this report.

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Appendix 1

European Journal of Pain Members of the Advisory Editorial Board 2013

AM Aloisi, Italy; M. Angst, USA; AV Apkarian, USA; L. Arendt-Nielsen, Denmark; N. Attal, France; M. Backonja, USA; U. Baumgärtner, Germany; M. Bianchi, Italy; D. Borsook, USA; H. Breivik, Norway; D. Ciampi de Andrade, Brazil; B. Craig, USA; G. Crombez, Belgium; A. Dahan, Netherlands; S. Van Damme, Belgium; A. Dickenson, UK; D. Drover, USA; P. Drummond, Australia; J. Ellrich, Denmark; S. Erdine, Turkey; A. Evers, Netherlands; S. Evers, Germany; R. Fillingim, USA; M. Fitzgerald, UK; H. Flor, Germany; L. Gagliese, Canada; C. Geber, Germany; P. Goadsby, USA; J. Greenspan, USA; M. Haanpää, Finland; M. Hasenbring, Germany; S. Hatem, Belgium; E. Kalso, Finland; T. Klein, Germany; S. Lautenbacher, Germany; .F. Lenz, USA; J.. Levine, USA; J. Lorenz, Germany; W. Magerl, Germany; W. Maixner, USA; P. Marchettini, Italy; L. McCracken, UK; S. Mense, Germany; S. Mercadante, Italy; B. Meyerson, Sweden; G.L. Moseley, Australia; T. Nurmikko, UK; G. Olsson, Sweden; S. Perrot, France; A. Pertovaara, Finland; M. Peters, Netherlands; F. Petzke, Germany; C. Porro, Italy; M Robinson, UK; M. Schiltewolf, Germany; M. Schmelz, Germany; C. Schmidt, Germany, M. Serpell, UK; J. Serra, Spain; C. Sommer, Germany; C. Stannard, UK; R. Staud, USA; I. Tegeder, Germany; B. Thorn, USA; J. Verbunt, Netherlands; J. Vlaeyen, Netherlands; K. Vowles, UK; P. Watson, UK; OHG Wilder-Smith, Netherlands; A. C de C Williams, UK; D. Yarnitsky, Israel

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